# Adam and Eve

Introduction

Adam and Eve are the central human characters in the creation account, found in Genesis chapters 1-3. As with all of Scripture, God is the central character in these chapters. Genesis literally means "the book of beginnings", and Adam and Eve are the beginning of the human race. They are the pinnacle of God's creative activity, and were created to take care of and humbly rule over all other creation.

However, because of their rebellion against God's grace to them, Adam and Eve also became the first sinners. The effects on not only people, but animals and all creation have been devastating through the relationships that have been broken because of sin. Satan's deception turned people against their Creator God, against one another, against the animal world, and against all of creation.

Yet God is loving and merciful. Even in the midst of sin, God cares for Adam and Eve, protects them, and promises to make things right – to redeem everything. This great promise was fulfilled in Jesus. And today, we experience the same effects of sin that Adam and Eve did, but also the promise of the Saviour.

Digging Deeper: Things you probably didn't learn in Sunday School, and things to talk about with those around you.

(These are some main points that need more unpacking than we can do together on Sunday mornings. You are encouraged to take some time to focus on these and other parts of the story to help understand it and its implications better. Talk about them with your family, friends, colleagues, etc. – those whom you have relationship with, and can talk about Biblical things with. We pray these are helpful to you as you let this Word from God dwell in you richly.)

- God's original commission to Adam and Eve was to humbly rule over – to steward – the animals and all creation (1:26-31) What has God given to you personally to steward? to your family? to our local church family? to our community?
- What's the difference between ownership and stewardship? Does it change how you view life?
- The command to avoid the Tree of Good and Evil was given to Adam before Eve was created (2:16-18). Men, pay special attention to this! There are profound implications for men here, and in the fact that God holds Adam responsible for both of their sin (3:8-9). Men, does this have implications for modern-day marriages and families? If so, what are they? (This would be a great question to talk about with other men this week.)
- Adam's response when Eve was brought to him? Singing and Poetry! (2:23)
- The fact that Moses mentions that they were naked without shame (2:25) means that shame is the "norm" now because of sin; it needed special mention that they didn't have shame at this point. Sexuality is not inherently sinful – along with everything else, it's been corrupted by sin. In addition to sexual corruption, so has the ongoing tension in relationships between men and women (3:17). Men, how does this now-corrupted rule (3:16) play itself out today? Women, how is this now-corrupted desire for her husband play itself out today?
- The eviction from the garden was not primarily an act of judgment, but an act of grace on God's part. Think of the implications of sinful people eating of the Tree of Life (3:22-24). Nowhere does Scripture say that Adam and Eve were expelled as a punishment for sin. Have you experienced the grace of God in ways that maybe didn't seem very "grace-full" at the time?